METHOD FOR PROCESSING MULTIPLE SECURITY POLICIES APPLIED TO A DATA PACKET STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for processing packets allows consolidation of security processing. Security processing is performed in accordance with multiple security policies. This processing is done in a single front end processing block. Different security processes can be performed in parallel. Processing overhead is reduced by eliminating the need to redundantly check packet characteristics to assess the different security requirements imposed by security policies. Further, the present invention also substantially reduces the CPU cycles required to transport data back and forth from memory to a cryptographic coprocessor.

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